

Dr. Lettsom

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THE
ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
WHITEHAVEN
DISPENSARY,
FOR THE YEAR

1797.

[WARE, PRINT.]





A GENERAL STATE OF THE WHITEHAVEN DISPENSARY,

For the Year 1797.

TO restore and preserve **HEALTH** are the chief and highly important Designations of this ESTABLISHMENT. The Opulent and Liberal, from the manifest Tendency and certain Effects of it, now laudably expanded to admit the greatest Objects of suffering Humanity, will doubtless become its zealous **PATRONS** and **PROTECTORS**. To whom that Series of medical and surgical Facts, annually collected in the Dispensary Registers, might preclude any Observation in its Favour. The many Scenes of complicated Misery (than which none can exceed those of Poverty and Sickness) variously displayed, according with the purest and most grateful Sensations, will persuasively excite their arduous and benign Endeavours to avert, mitigate, or remove them.

As a secondary Attestation of its extensive Utility, we may justly remark that perhaps the most valuable Species of **CHARITY** is that which anticipating the numerous

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Excitements of Affliction, especially the Cares and Solitudes of the indigent Sick, effectually prevents them. With this View, assiduous Attentions have been ever paid, since the Institution of this humane Endowment, to the primary and governable Attacks of Disease: by which Means their future Recurrence oft became more moderate and less frequent. To the influence of malignant Contagion these Sentiments very forcibly apply; the destructive Progress of FEVER being sometimes interrupted by certain active Remedies, in those who were first seized with it, and the diligent Admission of the requisite *Prophylactics* preventing its baneful Diffusion.

The Directors of so charitable an Undertaking have repeatedly intimated, That the principal acute Diseases of this maritime Situation were introduced from *Ireland*. The alarming Contagion which took place in an adjacent District (*Cortickle*) and prevailed during the Months of *July* and *August*, was of this an incontestable Proof. Communicated by a Seaman from *Waterford* to his Brother in Law, it extended its pestilential Virulence to every Inhabitant of Four Families connected with him, even to a Child of Five Months old. The Patients were as usual seized with the Symptoms of the cold Fit of Fever, terminated by excessive Heat and profuse Perspiration; the Crisis of the Disease being marked by their evident Remission upon the 11th or 14th Day. The chief Singularity was that of sometimes admitting a powerful and painful Determination to the Bowels. Imprudent Exposure to Cold, when apparently recovering, would oft induce a very active and permanent Exacerbation

cerbation of Fever, and threaten an unfavourable Event: but the most perilous Urgency of Disease seemed to depend upon a relaxed and languid State of the System: Hence the only fatal Instance occurred in an aged Woman, who to natural Infirmitiy added the Fatigue of constantly attending the Sick, and other Circumstances execitive of universal Debility. Of the various Means employed to prevent the future Communication of this dangerous Malady, the principal were an Attention to Cleanliness, Ventilation, and the Temperature of the Air, with the Assiduous Employment of certain *Prophylactics*; especially the Explosion of Gun-powder and the Evolution of the Nitrous Acid.*

To purify and render salubrious the Air of such contagious Situations, the Effluvia arising from Lime have also been admitted. A late proposed Mode of beneficially diffusing them was by hanging up, in the Chambers of the Sick, Cloths steeped in Lime Water, and frequent-

* In Addition to the Method of conducting the Process described at Page the 5th of our last Year's Report, it may not be improper to note, that if a perpetual Effusion of the Nitrous Vapour is required, the Vessel containing the Nitre and Vitriolic Acid might be placed over a Lamp: the sumigating One invented for the Purpose by Mozer is particularly recommended.

This Expedient, from the Success which attended it, appears to posses a Specific Efficacy in decomposing the Principles of Contagion, and rendering them innoxious. It has lately been found useful, in the Fevers of Work-houses, and in those originating from Want of Cleanliness in the confined Abodes of the Poor. Armed with this Antidote, we are assured that any Person might safely visit these contaminated Places, and very probably, by this Precaution, save many Lives without endangering his own.

ly renewing them. The medical Treatment always commenced upon the Approach of the Disease, with the Exhibition of an Emetic, and the Cure was afterwards referred to the copious Use of Stimulants and Tonics, viz. *Serpentaria Decoctions*, the *Bark* in every Form, *Wine*, and *Opiates*: which last, with *Astringents*, became highly proper in the advanced Stages of Fever, when the Bowels were remarkably irritated.

In Aid of that Relief which the Dispensary procured by Medicines, Wine, and Attendance, we must gratefully and respectfully acknowledge the occasional Interposition of private Beneficence generously furnishing every other Assistance. It has, indeed, proved a fertile Source of exquisite Anxiety, to find that the Succours of this Charity, mitigating the Woes of Penury, could not be extended to many of its truly poignant Distresses. The frugal Necessaries and Comforts of Life, which best promote our salutary Exertions, oft totally wanting, have been supplied with great Difficulty. Perfectly satisfactory were, however, our late Attentions, the Opportunity being given of happily granting a little pecuniary Relief wherever it was requisite. The Liberality of some well disposed Persons, thus affording effectual Consolation to one of the highest temporal Solicitudes, and especially contributing to the Recovery of our very indigent Patients, could only be equalled by the Delicacy of the Mode which conveyed it.

The Cales of Febrile Indisposition afterwards admitted were of uncertain Origin, and rarely characterized by malignant

malignant Appearances. Their general Communication was fortunately prevented.

Had it been necessary to enforce the Restrictions and Precautions judiciously prescribed by Government to arrest the Progress of that baneful Distemper which prevailed during the Autumn in the Borough of *Coleraine* : however hazardous the Undertaking, they, with every Prophylactic of Experience, should have been diligently executed.

The epidemic Affections to which the Children of the Indigent had been liable, in the Course of the Winter and Spring, still continued to obtain : of these the *Hooping Cough* was the most frequent and powerful. Amongst the lower Classes of People, where little Regard could be paid to the proper Government of the Regimen, (especially its principal Articles of Air and Diet) this Contagion raged with peculiar Violence. Repeated *Emetics*, topical *Blood-letting*, with the occasional Application of *Blisters*, were chiefly relied upon. Their Efficacy, in sensibly alleviating the Urgency of present Symptoms, and sometimes preventing any expected dangerous Attack, was always observable. In the last Stage of the Disease, when an inflammatory Tendency no longer prevailed, vegetable and mineral Tonics with Antispasmodics and external Stimulants, became manifestly useful. It must be acknowledged that in a Malady not less tedious and painful to its Objects, than alarming to their relative Connexions, very permanent Advantage has been derived, exclusive of medical Aid, from varying the Mode of Living of the Patient;

tient ; particularly permitting a total Change of Air, or rather, in mild and temperate Weather, a long continued Stream of it. In this Disease 184 Patients have been attended to, and though several long suffered very distressful Symptoms, two only were fatal Cases.

The *Natural Small Pox*, which appeared in different Situations the Whole of this Year, were at first remarkably favourable : the Eruptions, whose Number and Confluency always indicate and determine the Degree of Danger, being perfectly distinct. This Disease soon after assuming a Form of malignant Putrescency, was mortal to at least one in Six Persons who received the Contagion. As the Town and Neighbourhood had suffered its general Prevalency, and as many insuperable Prejudices against INOCULATION still remain, few were the Applications for its Benefits.—32 Children have been, however; admitted ; increasing the total Number, since the Winter of 1783, to 1111. Several Instances of the mildest Species of *Measles*, requiring domestic, chiefly pectoral, Expedients, also occurred.

No *Dysenteric* Patients have applied lately : those of *Diarrhœa*, more powerful than in former Seasons, were remitted to the curative or palliative Aids of *opiate*, *astringent*, and *strengthening* Remedies.

To the Imbecillities and morbid Affections, which incessant Labour unavoidably excite, the Friends of this Charity may advert with a mixt Sensation of Sorrow and Gratification. Whilst they commiserate that Necessity and those Exertions to relieve it which, at an early Period of Life sometimes occasion all the Infirmiti-
ties

ties of Old Age ; they cannot but indulge the consolatory Reflection, that their Munificence has established an Asylum for distressful Indigency. Administering to the Mitigation or Removal of its Pains and its Weaknesses, they must feel themselves exceedingly happy.

A Reference to the SYSTEMATIC ARRANGEMENT of our numerous chronic Disorders will, in this Regard, appear highly eligible. Exposed to accidental Injury, the POOR are daily suffering its deplorable Consequences, and which lay the Foundation for many of their very cogent Calamities. Hence proceeds the frequent Succession of Patients in the Surgical Department of the DISPENSARY. As intimately connected with this most useful Branch of it, the Benefits arising from the Admission of MIDWIFERY CASES may be suitably announced: These, in the Space of eleven Years, amount to 1248, and only two terminated fatally. Exclusive of that Relief immediately afforded them, several of the Ailments peculiar to Mothers and Children were prevented or cured.

The Generosity of the BENEFACTORS and SUBSCRIBERS to this CHARITY justly claims the most thankful Acknowledgments of its CONDUCTORS. Remotely attached to the Interests of *Whitehaven*, or its Vicinity, many of the latter have had the Goodness, from a Principle of general and exalted Philanthropy, to continue, during a Period of fifteen Years, that Patronage and Assistance which now render it so certainly conducive to the public Weal. In this View the liberal and distinguished Sanction of the CLERGY and MAGIS-
TRATES

TRATES was highly grateful. The new, additional, and renewed Contributions, with the voluntary Donations, which several fortunate Circumstances have concurred to augment, were also very acceptable: not only as promoting the laudable Scheme of this INSTITUTION, but as evincing the Degree of Estimation we wish, and endeavour it may merit and obtain. Entirely supported by annual Subscriptions, munificent, especially the original Benefactions and casual Bounty, we are sorry to remark that its Funds have been lately much reduced. Hence arose the imperious and painful Necessity of abridging the Quantity of Wine to the Fever Patients, and solely allowing it in Cases of extreme Langour and imminent Danger. Upon the same Accounts, the punctual Regards of a Nurse-keeper were rarely permitted.

In Consequence of that Attention which the novel and interesting Subject of SUSPENDED ANIMATION has every where excited, we may rest assured that fewer Instances of it must in future occur. Greater Precaution, and more judicious Expedients, will be admitted to prevent Accidents. And it is highly probable that the strenuous and persevering Endeavours of the Intrepid and Skilful, occasionally exerted, may prove more frequently fortunate. The Institution of a SOCIETY, well meriting the Appellation of HUMANE, has not only contributed to this beneficent Purpose, but also communicated the most effectual Means of preventing premature Death, by restoring Life when no latent Function of it could be detected. To the TREASURER of this celebrated Endowment we are indebted for a regular

regular and ample Supply of ingenious and useful Information.

From the preceding general Statement, of the various important Obligations of this DISPENSARY, it will appear that the Motives inducing its Establishment were not less laudable than arduous. May the Fulfillance of them be equally perfect, and acceptably excite the Feelings of its liberal BENEFACTORS! May those who patronize, and those who prosecute, its benign Appointments, experience the same Gratification! May they, in the pathetic and appropriate Language of our supreme dramatic Poet, indulge that Impulse of genuine and extensive.

“ CHARITY,—which, like MERCY, is twice blessed ;

“ It blesseth him that gives, and him that takes.”

May the voluntary Offerings of BENEVOLENCE, graciously and generously presented by the AFFLUENT and COMPASSIONATE, not only remove, or mitigate the acutest Sufferings HUMANITY is Heir to, but also return to them, during a Series of successful Events, in the most refined and complacent *Satisfactions* : “ THE BEST SOURCE OF HAPPINESS, TO *Ourselves*, BEING THE CONSCIOUSNESS OF HAVING OMITTED NO OPPORTUNITY OF DIFFUSING IT TO *Others*.”

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An ACCOUNT of the PATIENTS admitted, from
JUNE 12th, 1797, to JUNE 11th, 1798.

Recommended and Registered, (of whom 662 were attended in their own Habitations) . . .	1677
Midwifery Cases	74
Trivial Incidents	2039
Children prepared for the Small Pox	92
Persons inoculated for the Small Pox	32
	—
	3914
Patients remaining upon the Books, June 12, 1797, .	199
	—
	4113

The STATE of the REGISTERS.

Cured	1582
Relieved	66
Incurable	53
Irregular	0
Dead	35
Remaining upon the Books	173
	—
	1909
	—
Total	

Total Number of PATIENTS admitted since the Institution of this CHARITY, June 30, 1783.

In 1783	.	.	.	2057	
In 1784	.	.	.	2644	
In 1785	.	.	.	3034	
In 1786	.	.	.	2708	
In 1787	.	.	.	2521	
In 1788	.	.	.	2129	
In 1789	.	.	.	5996	
In 1790	.	.	.	3721	
In 1791	.	.	.	2672	
In 1792	.	.	.	2806	
In 1793	.	.	.	3248	
In 1794	.	.	.	3589	
In 1795	.	.	.	3426	
In 1796	.	.	.	3938	
In 1797	.	.	.	3914	
				48403	
					Cured
					24526
					Relieved
					806
					Incurable
					364
					Irregular
					28
					Dead
					708
					Remain on the Books 173
					26605

The Number of Patients admitted (as by the preceding List) 48403

Registered Patients : : : : : 26605

Midwifery Objects 1248

Trivial Cases 20550

Total 48403

S U B S C R I B E R S.

A

Rev. Richard Armitstead	-	0	10	6
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B

W. Brownrigg, M. D. F. R. S. <i>Ormathwaite</i>	2	2	0
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Anthony Benn, Esq. <i>Hensingham</i>	-	3	3	0
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Mr. John Beck	-	1	1	0
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Robert Blakeney, Esq.	-	1	1	0
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Mr. John Bateman	-	0	10	6
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Mr. William Birkhead	-	0	10	6
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Mr. William Bowes	-	0	10	6
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Mr. Isaac Bragg	-	0	10	6
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Mr. John Birkett	-	0	10	6
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Mrs. Richard Bowman	-	0	10	6
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Mr. Richard Bowes	-	0	10	6
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Mr. Henry Bragg, <i>Parton</i>	-	0	5	0
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C

J. C. Curwen, Esq. <i>Workington Hall</i>	5	5	0
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Rev. Charles Cobbe Church	-	1	1	0
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Henry Crosthwaite, M. D.	-	1	1	0
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Mr. Walter Chambre	-	0	10	6
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Mr. John Clementson	-	0	5	0
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Mr. Robert Carter	-	0	5	0
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D

John Dixon, Esq.	-	2	2	0
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Mr. Peter Dixon	-	1	1	0
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Joshua Dixon, M. D.	-	1	1	0
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Mr. John Douglas	-	0	10	6
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F

Mr. Isaac Foster	-	0	10	6
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G

Mr. Benjamin Gilliat	-	1	1	0
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Carried forward £	26	9	6
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S U B S C R I B E R S.

	Brought over £	26	9	6
H				
Rev. Wilfrid Huddleston	-	2	2	0
John Hartley, Esq.	-	2	2	0
Thomas Hartley, Esq. <i>Gill Foot</i>	-	2	2	0
John Hamilton, Esq.	-	2	2	0
† Messrs. Hornby, Bell, and Birley	-	5	5	0
Mr. Joseph Harris, Surgeon	-	1	1	0
Thomas Hartley, jun. Esq.	-	1	1	0
§ Rev. Peter How, <i>Workington</i>	-	1	1	0
Mr. William Harrison	-	0	10	6
Mr. Peter Hodgson	-	0	10	6
Mr. James Hall	-	0	10	0
Mr. John Huddleston	-	0	5	0
Mr. Benjamin Harris	-	0	5	0
I				
Edmund Lamplugh Irton, Esq. <i>Irton Hall</i>	-	2	2	0
Thomas Irwin, Esq. <i>Moss Side</i>	-	1	1	0
Mr. Edward Johnston	-	1	1	0
Mr. John Johnston	-	1	1	0
Mr. Henry Jefferson	-	0	10	6
§ Mr. William Johnston	-	0	5	0
K				
Rev. James Kirkpatrick	-	1	1	0
Mr. Thomas Kirkpatrick	-	0	5	0
L				
Sir Wilfrid Lawson, Bart. <i>Brayton</i>	-	5	5	0
Henry Lutwidge, Esq.	-	2	2	0
Thomas Lutwidge, Esq.	-	1	1	0
William Lewthwaite, Esq.	-	1	1	0
† Rev. John Lindow, <i>Croft End</i>	-	1	1	0
Carried forward £	63	3	0	

S U B S C R I B E R S.

	Brought over £.	6	3	0
Mr. Richard Ledger	-	0	10	6
Mr. John Lancaster	-	0	10	6
Mr. John Litt, <i>Nether End</i>	-	0	10	6
M				
William Moore, Esq.	-	1	1	0
§ Rev. John Myers, <i>Lincolnshire</i>	-	1	1	0
Rev. Timothy Martin	-	0	10	6
Mr. George Miller	-	0	10	6
N				
† Mr. Joseph Nicholson	-	0	10	6
† Mr. Thomas Nicholson	-	0	5	0
P				
Mr. Samuel Potter	-	1	11	6
Mr. Peter Peele, <i>Diffington</i>	-	1	1	0
Mr. Prest, Druggist, <i>York</i>	-	1	1	0
Mr. Joseph Piper	-	0	10	6
Messrs. William and Edward Perry	-	0	10	6
Mr. Thomas Park, <i>Mercer</i>	-	0	10	6
R				
George Richardson, Esq.	-	1	1	0
Mr. George Rayson, Druggist, <i>Leeds</i>	-	1	1	0
Mr. John Rumney	-	0	10	6
Mr. William Rothery, <i>Morresby</i>	-	0	10	6
Mrs. Richmond	-	0	10	6
Mr. Ebenezer Reed	-	0	5	0
Mr. John Richardson	-	0	5	0
S				
J. T. Senhouse, Esq. <i>Calder Abbey</i>	-	2	2	0
Royal Union Society	-	2	2	0
Mr. Alexander Spittall	-	1	1	0

Carried forward £. 83 6 6

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S U B S C R I B E R S.

Brought over £. 83 6 6

Mr. George Stalker - 1 1 0

Mr. Robert Sanderson - 1 1 0

Mr. Andrew Spittall - 1 1 0

Messrs. Sutcliffes, Druggists, York 1 1 0

Miss Senhouse - 0 10 6

John Sarjeant, Esq. - 0 5 0

† Mr. John Smith, King's Arms - 0 5 0

T

Mr. Ebenezer Tipping - 0 5 0

V

Mr. George Vickers - 0 10 6

W

John Wordsworth, Esq. - 1 1 0

Mr. John Ware - 1 1 0

Mr. Mark Wylie, Druggist - 1 1 0

Mrs. Wetherald, Wigton - 1 1 0

Mrs. Watts - 0 10 6

Mr. Witherington - 0 10 6

Mr. William Wilson - 0 10 6

Mr. Christopher Williamson - 0 10 6

Mr. Joseph Wood - 0 10 6

Rev. David Williamson - 0 5 0

Mr. Jonathan Wills - 0 5 0

Y

Mr. Peter How Younger - 1 1 0

Total Subscriptions £. 97 14 0

Charity Box Donations - 19 5 3

Cash Lent - - 65 0 0

Interest of Do. - - 3 5 0

Remaining with the Treasurer last Year 0 6 1

Total £. 185 10 4

Disbursements	Brought over £.	18	5	10	4
		115	15	1	$\frac{1}{2}$
Balance in Favour of the Charity	£.	69	15	2	$\frac{1}{2}$



DISBURSEMENTS.

Drugs and Medicines	£.	4	10	14	4
Midwifery Expences.		8	10	0	0
Printing and Stationary		6	6	9	
Wine and Spirit for Tinctures		5	16	3	
Nurse-keeper, Coals, Candles, Attendance, Herbs, Phials, Carriage of Drugs, Leather, Leaches, and fundry small Articles	£.	8	12	9	$\frac{1}{2}$
Apothecary's Salary and Gratuity		40	10	0	
House Rent		5	5	0	
	£.	115	15	1	$\frac{1}{2}$



New Subscriptions are marked thus +—the Augmented thus †—and the
Renewed thus §

SUBSCRIPTIONS are taken in at the TREASURER's; at Mr. WARE's
PRINTING OFFICE; and at the DISPENSARY.

Blank Letters of Recommendation may be had at the Dispensary.

All Persons, who are disposed to contribute by WILL to this CHARITY, are
requested to do it in the following Manner:

"I give and bequeath to A. B. and C. D. the Sum of
upon Trust that they do pay the same to the TREASURER of the Whitehaven
Dispensary: which Sum of *I desire may be applied*
towards carrying on the benevolent Designs of the said CHARITY."

A SYSTEMATIC

OFFICERS for the Year 1798.

PRESIDENT.

The Right Honourable James Earl of Lonsdale.

VICE PRESIDENTS.

John Christian Curwen, Esq.—Anthony Benn, Esq.

William Brownrigg, M. D. F. R. S.—Rev. Wilfrid Hudleston.

Rev. Charles Cobbe Church.—Thomas Irwin, Esq.

William Moore, Esq.—Rev. John Myers.

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Robert Blakeney, Esq.

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Mr. Peter How Younger.

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Mr. Isaac Robinson.

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Mr. Joseph Piper.—George Richardson, Esq.

President of the Royal Union Society.—John Dixon, Esq.

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Mr. John Ware.—Mr. George Stalker.

Mr. Alexander Spittall.—Mr. Andrew Spittall.

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John Hamilton, Esq.

Mr. Joseph Harris, Surgeon.—Mr. Hugh James, Surgeon.

PHYSICIAN.

Joshua Dixon, M. D.

SURGEON EXTRAORDINARY.

John Hamilton, Esq.

SURGEONS.

Messrs. Harris and Crosthwaite.

APOTHECARY

Mr. Richardson Thompson.

